

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-17 and 19-37 are pending in the application; Claims 1, 8, 15, 22 and 25 are amended; Claims 5, 11, and 18 are canceled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,735 to Tsai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 956,314 to Ishimatsu.

The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest that at least one of the supporting means has a first supporting elasticity and is disposed on the base near the disk rotation driving means, while at least another one of the supporting means has a second supporting elasticity different from the first supporting elasticity and is disposed on the base away from the disk rotation driving means, as recited similarly in each of independent Claims 1, 8, 14, 22 and 25.

Tsai discloses a base 10, a pickup head 20, first and second guiding rods 39 and 40 mounted on the base 10. The motor is mounted on the base 10 and drives the pickup head 20 along the guiding rods 30 and 40. Several shock absorbing elements 18 are attached to the base 10 for protecting the pickup head 20 and the disk from mechanical shocks. All shock absorbing elements 18 are made from the same material and not disclosed to be different in any way. Further, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Tsai is silent as to an adjusting piece to adjust an elasticity of the support piece. As such Tsai is silent regarding the features recited in independent claims. Ishimatsu does not make up for the deficiencies of Tsai discussed above.

Specifically, Ishimatsu merely discloses a shock absorbing device 101 including a tubular member 102 formed of a material having a high module of elasticity such as rubber, and a compression spring 103 mounted within the tubular member 102. The shock absorbing device 101 is mounted on the driving unit 2 by fitting the constricted portion 106a in the through hole 107. The portion the protuberance 106 other than the constricted portion 106(a) prevents the tubular member 102 from being detached from the driving unit 102. Lateral sides of the wall sections 104a and 104b facing the hollow section 105 are formed with lugs 108 and 109 for preventing the compression spring 103 from being detached accidentally. Accordingly, there is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion for having a supporting means having a different elasticity from another of the supporting means, as claimed in the independent claims. That is, neither the springs 103 or the protuberance 106 are disclosed or suggested to be different from each other in any way.

Thus, for the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22 and 25.

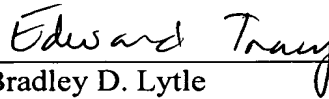
Further, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-14, 16-17, 19-21, 23-24, and 26-37, which depend from the independent claims, are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own features.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for the claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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